

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 6 as follows:

A second aspect of the invention provides novel esters of acetoacetate for use in therapy or as a nutritional aid. Such esters may include ~~C14~~ C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl esters but most preferred are the D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyryl-acetoacetate esters referred to above.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 20 as follows:

A sixth aspect of the present invention provides a D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyryl-acetoacetate ester per se, a physiologically acceptable salt or short or medium chain mono, di or trihydric alcohol or 1,3-butandiol ~~ester~~ ester thereof.